

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14776 122258Z
ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14776

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, US

SUBJECT: FORLANI REQUEST FOR BILATERAL WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND
SECRETARY VANCE

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI'S OFFICE CALLED TO
REQUEST A BILATERAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.
FORLANI, WHO WILL BE IN NEW YORK SEPT. 25 - OCT. 2,
WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON IF
THE PRESIDENT WILL BE MEETING OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS
ATTENDING THE UNGA. SHOULD THE PRESIDENT BE IN NEW YORK
DURING FORLANI'S STAY, FORLANI WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH HIM
THERE. (WE NOTE THAT PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCED VISIT TO NEW YORK
WILL BE AFTER FORLANI RETURNS TO ITALY.) FINALLY,
IF ANY KIND OF GROUP MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
(SUCH AS KEY NATO ALLIIES) WITH THE PRESIDENT IS
CONTEMPLATED, FORLANI WOULD HOPE TO BE INCLUDED.

2. FORLANI WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE SECRETARY
VANCE AND REQUESTS A BILATERAL MEETING WITH HIM IF
APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER (AT WHICH SECRETARY
WOULD PRESUMABLY BE PRESENT) CANNOT BE ARRANGED.

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3. WORDING OF REQUEST REFLECTS PERENNIAL ITALIAN
SENSITIVITIES ABOUT BEING REGARDED BY U.S. AS KEY ALLY.
WE URGE THAT IF PRESIDENT DOES PLAN TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTERS
OF OTHER MAJOR NATO COUNTRIES FORLANI BE INCLUDED IN SCHEDULE.
IN ANY CASE, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF
CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO ROME, THE SECRETARY
MEET WITH FORLANI FOR A DISCUSSION OF MULTILATERAL TOPICS

INCLUDING SALT, MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
EAST-WEST RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY BELGRADE.GARDNER

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